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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00
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FSE
DEPARTMENT

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KWAUCHOPE:SM X20668
APPROVED BY AF:WHARROP
AF/E:RPOST
AF/I:MCHESHES (SUBS)
----------127309 011103Z /10
R 010148Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, US, UG

SUBJECT: SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON UGANDA

REF: A) STATE 129940; B) STATE 037552

1. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY CONDUCTED PUBLIC INVESTIGATIVE HEARINGS ON U.S. TRADE RELATIONS WITH UGANDA ON JUNE 15, 21 AND 26. THESE HEARINGS FOLLOWED THE MODEL OF THE HOUSE HEARINGS EARLIER IN THE YEAR, BEGINNING WITH REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE ICJ, FOLLOWED BY THE U.S. FIRMS' TESTIMONY AS TO THE NATURE OF THEIR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH UGANDA, AND CONCLUDING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG REVIEWING POLICY AND ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST UGANDA.

2. DAS HARROP PRESENTED THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON USG POLICY GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES OF HIS STATEMENT

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TO THE HOUSE (REF B). THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO THIS TESTIMONY WAS A STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON THE VOLUNTARY EMBARGO UNDERTAKEN BY THE MAJOR U.S. FIRMS IMPORTING UGANDAN COFFEE (REF A). IN ESSENCE THIS STATEMENT SAID "WHILE WE DO NOT SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED EMBARGO AGAINST UGANDA, WE RECOGNIZE THAT AMERICAN FIRMS MUST MAKE THEIR BUSINESS DECISIONS IN LIGHT OF ALL THE RELEVANT FACTORS INVOLVED, AMONG WHICH WOULD BE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS." IT THEN NOTED THAT WE HAD STRESSED TO THE GOU THAT SUCH ACTIONS MIGHT WELL RESULT FROM THE INTENSE CONCERN WHICH EXISTS WITHIN AMERICAN SOCIETY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN UGANDA.

3. ON JUNE 30 THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON A TELEGRAM FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN KAMPALA CITING A REPORT ON RADIO UGANDA CLAIMING TO QUOTE A CBS RADIO REPORT THAT DAS HARROP TESTIFIED THAT THE U.S. "SHOULD OPEN THEIR EMBASSY IN KAMPALA EVEN AT A LOWER LEVEL." NO SUCH STATEMENT WAS MADE BY DAS HARROP OR ANY OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, AND THERE ARE NO PLANS TO RE-OPEN OUR MISSION IN KAMPALA. THE ONLY MENTION OF RE-OPENING THE U.S. MISSION WHICH WAS MADE DURING THESE HEARINGS WAS MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON JUNE 15 (HARROP TESTIFIED JUNE 26) THAT THIS ACTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS ONE
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OF A SERIES OF POSSIBLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN UGANDA.

4. THE ONE ELEMENT OF CONTROVERSY WHICH WAS SPARKED BY DAS HARROP'S APPEARANCE WAS THE INTRODUCTION BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF A LIST OF 27 PALESTINIANS WHO WERE PROVIDED UGANDAN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING SOME DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. THE LIST HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE CIA TO BE AN AUTHENTIC GOU DOCUMENT, BUT THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF ONLY ONE PALESTINIAN WHO ACTUALLY TRAVELED ON SUCH A DOCUMENT. U.S. MEDIA HAS TAKEN NOTICE OF THIS ISSUE AND IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT THE PUBLIC LINKAGE OF THE GOU WITH THE PALESTINIANS, AND BY EXTENSION PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS,WILL FURTHER KINDLE ANIMOSITY AGAINST THE AMIN GOVERNMET.

5. FOR BONN: PLEASE PASS THE FOREGOING TO THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THEIR EMBASSY IN KAMPALA. VANCE

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